

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic ~~vision~~, vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a ~~removed-processed~~ region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~. the target regions except for the processed region.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic ~~vision~~, vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a ~~removed-processed~~ region; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a

~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.~~ the target regions except for the processed region.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of blurring the ~~removed~~-processed region.

5. (Currently Amended) The generating method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of blurring the ~~removed~~-processed region.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing contrast of the ~~removed~~-processed region.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing contrast of the ~~removed~~-processed region.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the ~~removed~~-processed region.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the ~~removed~~-processed region.

10. (Currently Amended) The generating method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more

inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue of the ~~removed~~processed region to a cold color family.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue of the ~~removed~~processed region close to a cold color family.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~removed~~processed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of ~~a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~the target regions except for the processed region.

13. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, the stereoscopic image set of images being processed so as to make more inconspicuous left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane than ~~a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~the target regions except for the processed region.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating a stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is one of or a combination of the following processings:

- (1) processing of blurring the ~~removed~~processed region;
- (2) processing of reducing contrast of the ~~removed~~processed region;
- (3) processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region;

(4) processing of bringing a hue of the ~~removed-processed~~ region close to a cold color family; and

(5) processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~removed-processed~~ region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.~~ the target regions except for the processed region.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of generating a stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is one of or a combination of the following processings:

(1) processing of blurring the ~~removed-processed~~ region;

(2) processing of reducing contrast of the ~~removed-processed~~ region;

(3) processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the ~~removed-processed~~ region;

(4) processing of bringing a hue of the ~~removed-processed~~ region close to a cold color family; and

(5) processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~removed-processed~~ region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.~~ the target regions except for the processed region.

16. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus comprising:

~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a ~~removed-processed~~ region by identifying the more inconspicuous

region between left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing means for carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~; the target regions except for the processed region.

17. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a ~~removed-processed~~ region; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing means of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region identified by said ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~; the target regions except for the processed region.

18. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic viewing method of watching a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a ~~removed-processed~~ region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between

left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~; the target regions except for the processed region.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic ~~vision~~, vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a ~~removed-processed~~ region; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~; the target regions except for the processed region.

20. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic viewing apparatus for showing a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing apparatus comprising:

~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a ~~removed-processed~~ region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing means for carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~ the target regions except for the processed region.

21. (Currently Amended) A apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said apparatus comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a ~~removed-processed~~ region; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing means of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction means than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~ the target regions except for the processed region.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling a apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said program causing a stereoscopic image generating apparatus to execute:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a ~~removed-processed~~ by identifying the more inconspicuous region between left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~; the target regions except for the processed region.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling an apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said program causing said stereoscopic image generating apparatus to execute:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a ~~removed-processed~~ region; and

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions~~; the target regions except for the processed region.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the left image and the right image, image by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a ~~removed-processed~~ region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between

left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a ~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions;~~ the target regions except for the processed region; and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image set of images which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image set of images according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the left image and the right ~~image,~~ image by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a ~~removed-processed~~ region;

a ~~removed-processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous the ~~removed-processed~~ region extracted in the ~~removed-processed~~ region extraction step than a

~~region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions; the target~~
regions except for the processed region; and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image set of images according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.